**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly rewrite Claims 7-10, 12, 16 and 18. The status of all the claims currently in the application are also set forth below.

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A friction-grip fireplace tool, comprising:

a. a unary, v-shaped, open-jawed mouth ~~b. means of said open-jawed mouth exhibiting~~ having a spring-like effect when urged wider open~~,~~ ;

~~c. means of said open-jawed mouth resisting the heat of a fire,~~

~~d.~~ b. friction ridges spaced at intervals around ~~the~~ an inner perimeter of said open-jawed mouth ~~so as~~ to create a ~~pronounced~~ friction effect within said open-jawed mouth~~,~~ ;

~~e.~~ c. an elongated connecting rod~~,~~ ;

~~f.~~ d. means of joining said connecting rod at its lower end to one side of said open-jawed mouth such that the closed end of said open-jawed mouth is directed toward a user of said fireplace ~~tools user~~ tool,

~~g.~~ e. a hand grip~~,~~ ; and

~~h.~~ f. means of joining said hand grip to said connecting rod at its upper end, whereby a user can grip said fireplace tool by said hand grip, push said open-jawed mouth onto said log, thus applying a progressively tightening gripping force created by the combination of said spring-like effect and said friction effect, lift, move, reposition and release said log, without manipulating any moving parts.

8. (Currently Amended) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7, further including a wedge-shaped tip at ~~the~~ an open end of one side of said open-jawed mouth.

9. (Currently Amended) The friction grip fireplace tool of Claim 7, wherein ~~material of~~ said open-jawed mouth is made of steel.

10. (Currently Amended) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7, wherein ~~material of~~ said open-jawed mouth is made of iron.

11. (Withdrawn) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein said fireplace tool is constructed from a single piece of material bent to form said hand grip at one end, said open-jawed mouth at the other end, and said connecting rod between said ends.

12. (Currently Amended) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7, wherein said fireplace tool is constructed by joining ~~three separate pieces of material,~~ together said open-jawed mouth, said elongated connecting rod, and said hand grip.

13. (Withdrawn) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein said fireplace tool is constructed by joining two separate pieces of material, said open-jawed mouth and said connecting rod formed from one said piece and said hand grip formed from the second said piece.

14. (Withdrawn) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein said fireplace tool is constructed by joining two separate pieces of material, said open-jawed mouth formed from one said piece and said connecting rod and said hand grip formed from the second said piece.

15. (Withdrawn) The friction grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein means of joining said open-jawed mouth and said connecting rod is by welding.

16. (Currently Amended) The friction grip fireplace tool of Claim 7, wherein the means of joining said open-jawed mouth and said connecting rod is ~~by~~ a threaded coupling.

17. (Withdrawn) The friction grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein means of joining said hand grip and said connecting rod is by welding.

18. (Currently Amended) The friction grip fireplace tool of Claim 7, wherein the means of joining said hand grip and said connecting rod is ~~by~~ a threaded coupling.

19. (Withdrawn) A method of lifting and repositioning a log in a fireplace comprising:

a. providing a friction-grip fireplace tool of the type comprising a unary, v-shaped, open-jawed mouth constructed of a resilient, fire-resistant material, ridges spaced at intervals around the inner perimeter of said open-jawed mouth, an elongated connecting rod, joined at its lower end to one side of said open-jawed mouth, with the closed end of said open-jawed mouth directed toward the user of said fireplace tool, and a hand grip joined to the upper end of said connecting rod,

b. pushing said open-jawed mouth onto said log, thus applying gripping force created by the combination of the resilience of said open-jawed mouth, the friction effect of said ridges, and said log being urged progressively deeper into said open-jawed mouth,

c. lifting and moving said log to a new position in said fireplace,

d. releasing said log into said new position by tapping one side of the open end of said open-jawed mouth against any solid object in said fireplace whereby a user can grip, lift, move, reposition and release said log, without manipulating any moving parts.